

REMARKS

Claims 3-10 and 17-31 are pending with claims 17-26 allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 11-16 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 3-7 are amended into independent form. Claims 8 and 9 are amended to depend from claim 4. Claim 27 is amended to include a feature that has already been considered by the Examiner (e.g. in claim 28) which raises no new issues. Further, Fig. 1 is corrected and a corrected replacement sheet is also attached. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The indication on page 5 that claims 17-26 are allowed and claims 3-7 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form is gratefully acknowledged.

For the following reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections. Claims 3-7 are amended above to be in independent form, and thus should be allowed.

I. Regarding Fig. 1

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains the objection to the drawings for not showing a feature recited in the claims. Fig. 1 is corrected and a corrected

replacement sheet is submitted. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. Reply to Rejections

A. §102 Rejection

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,486 to Nakahara et al. (hereinafter "Nakahara"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nakahara fails to disclose a magnetic circuit for an electrical machine, the circuit comprising a stack of layers of sectors formed by helically winding a strip of lamination sectors, as recited in claim 27.

Nakahara discloses a motor for driving a magnetic or optical disk which comprises a magnetic circuit formed of a plurality of connected stator cores stacked to form the laminated core 20 (col. 34, lines 11-13; Figs. 77 and 78). There is no disclosure in Nakahara of helically winding a strip of lamination sectors. As such, Nakahara does not teach or suggest a magnetic circuit for an electrical machine, the circuit comprising a stack of layers of sectors formed by helically winding a strip of lamination sectors, as recited in amended claim 27.

Therefore, claim 27 is patentable over the applied reference. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,868,439 to King. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that King fails to disclose a magnetic circuit for an electrical machine, comprising a stack of layers of sectors formed by helically winding a strip of sectors interconnected by at least one of deformable and hinged links, and a plurality of independent bars cooperating with the links and fixed on a periphery of the stack, as recited in claim 28.

King discloses a dynamoelectric machine comprising a magnetic circuit formed of a strip comprising teeth 33 on one side of the yoke 29 and extensions 31 on the other side of the yoke, the teeth 33 and the extensions 31 being in radial alignment (see col. 7, lines 61-63). Therefore, King fails to disclose having sectors that can be interconnected. Further, although the Examiner asserts that the extensions 31 are deformable, Fig. 4A of King discloses that the arcuate outer edges 47 are deformed.

Furthermore, in King, the core has fewer extensions 31 than teeth because the extensions are essentially arranged so as to engage with beam 65 that secure end frames 93, 93a of the machine 23 (see col. 12, lines 22-30). As such, King does not teach or suggest a magnetic circuit for an electrical machine, comprising a stack of layers of sectors formed by helically winding a strip of sectors interconnected by at least one of deformable and hinged links, and a plurality of independent bars cooperating with the links and fixed on a periphery of the stack, as recited in claim 28.

Consequently, claim 28 is patentable over the applied reference. Claims 29-31, which depend from claim 28, are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-31 is respectfully requested.

B. §103 Rejection

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 122215745 to Kurosawa in view of Nakahara. The rejection of canceled claims 1 and 2 is moot. Claims 8-10 are now allowable as dependent on allowable claim 4. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 8-10 is respectfully requested.

C. Regarding Claims 19-21

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 19-21 are discussed without being rejected.

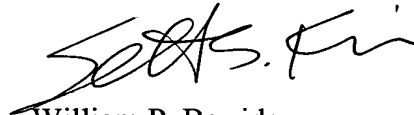
The Office Action indicates that claims 19-21 are allowed. This discussion of claims 19-21 appears to be in error.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-10 and 17-31 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:SSK/jcp

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Sheets
Amendment Transmittal

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